

## St. Charles Parish

Workforce Investment Act 737 Paul Maillard Rd. Suite 2A, Luling, LA 70070

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V.J. St. Pierre, JR. Parish President

Tommy Scott Program Director

TO: V.J. St. Pierre, Jr., Parish President

FROM: Tommy Scott III, Director of Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

SUBJECT: 2014 Annual Report

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) strives to become the epitome of connection amongst employers and our local residents. We strive to empower our communities by perpetually improving the lines of communication between jobseekers and the business community.

In 2014, WIA received a funding opportunity from the Department of Labor that allotted us to place numerous individuals into our Employer-Based Training program. Our EBT program allows us to pay a portion of an employee's salary throughout the duration of their initial training phase of employment. This is a mutually beneficial program for all parties involved as it presents a local citizen with a permanent job opportunity and the employer a well-trained addition to their workforce. This particular program aims to reduce any disparity between employer's workforce needs and a Jobseeker's actual ability. In addition to this program, WIA has continually offered its alternate programs that provide tremendous training opportunities to the general public to increase attainment of employment.

WIA has strengthened our relationships more than ever with the business community, training providers, and our fellow community service organizations to ensure that we are able to assist anyone at any stage in their career regardless of circumstances. 2014 proved to be one of our better years as far as budgetary areas of concern. Although our funding was reduced, it was significantly less than the cuts we were forced to adhere to in previous years. We have also improved our marketing strategies to increase overall awareness of our centers and the services that we provide.

It had become evident over the years that the general public was unaware of what actually takes place at WIA. In 2014, WIA was frequently marketed through local publications, social media, and utilization of many public platforms. Due to our unique, yet effective marketing strategy, we have seen a tremendous increase in our volume of clients in comparison to previous years. In 2014 we served a total of 50,556 individuals. Other services delivered in 2014 are as follows:

Members enrolled:

4,851

Members obtaining employment:

183

Services to employers:

925

UI claimants registered in centers:

8,904

Internal recruitments:

635

In 2015, we will continue to establish and nurture the collaborations necessary to ensure that we are the main resource utilized in an effort to fulfill the workforce needs of our residents and business community. Our staff diligently works to constantly broaden the array of benefits available to each and every single individual that visits our centers. WIA will continue to provide training and education opportunities throughout our area to ensure that St. Charles Parish has the most highly trained, capable, and competent workforce possible.